**Tapping Non-Conventional energy sources**

873. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that development of renewable and non-conventional sources of energy, as from sea waves, wind and sun, is the only answer to the perennial unpredictability of conventional sources like hydel and thermal, in the next millennium; and

(b) if so, the details of efforts being made to tap non-conventional sources of energy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIEMANTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Development of renewable and non-conventional energy sources will play an increasingly important role in supplementing production of energy from conventional sources in the next millennium.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional energy is implementing a large array of projects and programmes aimed at tapping the vast non-conventional sources of energy available in the country. These include projects and programmes largely in the wind, solar, biomass and small hydro power sectors.

Efforts being made to encourage tapping of non-conventional sources of energy include a range of fiscal and financial incentives such as subsidy and 100% depreciation benefits on certain new and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) projects, excise, customs and tax concessions, offering soft loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), giving automatic approval to proposals for foreign direct investment up to 74% for manufacture of certain NRSE devices/systems and drawing up an attractive facility for evacuation of power from NRSE projects.

**आम नागरिक को सूचना प्राप्त करने का अधिकार**

874. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
**श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:**

क्या संसदीय कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था में पारदर्शिता लाने हेतु आम नागरिक को सूचना प्राप्त करने के अधिकार देने संबंधी विधेयक को संसद में पारित कराने का निश्चय कर रखा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वह निर्णय अन्तिम रूप से कब लिया गया था;

(ग) क्या इस विधेयक को अंतिम रूप दिया जा चुका है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो विधेयक कब तक तैयार हो जायेगा और इसे संसद में विचारार्थ पुरःस्थापित कर दिया जायेगा?

**कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय):** (क) से (घ) जनवरी, 1997 में सरकार ने श्री एच० डी० शौरी की अध्यक्षता में "सूचना प्राप्त करने के अधिकार तथा खुली और पारदर्शी सरकार ने विकास" पर कार्यदल का गठन किया। कार्यदल ने अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ संसद द्वारा "सूचना अधिनियम की स्वतंत्रता" के अधिनियम की सिफारिश करते हुए 21 मई, 1997 को अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को प्रस्तुत की थी। इस सिफारिश पर विचार का कार्य ऊंचे स्तर पर है।

**Development of small hydro power projects in N.E. States**

875. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties expressed by the North Eastern States in the development of Small Hydro Power Projects; and

(b) if so, the details of corrective measures suggested by the Power Finance Corporation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) the main difficulties for development of Small Hydro Power Projects in the North-Eastern States include High Capital Cost due to remote location and lack of enabling infrastructure, poor law and order in internal/remote areas, high cost of supply of power due to scattered load centres with very low load density and non-availability of matching funds/ department's share for completing the projects.

(b) The Power Finance Corporation has been regularly interacting with the North-Eastern States for the development of Small Hydro Power Projects in the region through workshops, seminars, senior officials meets etc. During the recent senior officials meeting on 18th January, 1999, it was concluded that the region must promote its hydro-electric development and adopt the concept of cost & profit centres and Model Distribution Management (MDM) alongwith a shift towards commercial operation of its Electricity Departments. The Power Finance Corporation is also offering interest subsidy for eligible on-going Hydro Power Projects of the Region under its Accelerated Generation & Supply Programme at 5% below its normal lending rates on the disbursements made during the 9th Five Year Plan.

**Power Generation by Private power projects**

876. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 14.2.1999 captioned "PVT PROJECTS up to 20,000 crores may bypass CEA" if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Governments have been consulted on this proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Government and their Electricity Boards do not have the necessary technical skills to assess mega-power projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons for bypassing the CEA?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the concerned agencies of Government of India.

**Potential sites for Power Generation in Andhra Pradesh**

877. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Hydel Power Corporation has located any potential sites in Andhra Pradesh for power generation;

(b) if so, the details of such sites;

(c) what is the criteria adopted by NHPC in surveying potential sites in different States;

(d) whether NHPC has not followed any specific guidelines in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to formulate guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power has proposed to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the funding and execution of Priyadarshani Jurala Hydroelectric Scheme (6×39.6 MW) by utilising the surplus water